

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /156 W

----- 034191

R 051900Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1868

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7453

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IN, BG

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM EXPLORATION - QUESTIONS RE INDIAN AND BANGLADESH
WATERS

REF: A) DACCA 2342; B) NEW DELHI 6722; C) STATE A-5227,
JUNE 15, 1973.

1. ON JUNE 4, MINATT SWEETWOOD AGAIN DISCUSSED OFFSHORE OIL
CONTRACT BOUNDARIES (AND RELATED TOPICS) WITH DR. GOPAL RAMASWAMY,
CHIEF, EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM,
GOI, FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF DACCA'S REVISED MAPS (REF A
OF THE BANGLADESH OFFSHORE AREA ("GEOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOWING SOME GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE"; SCALE 1:1,000,000
)
AND "OFFSHORE AREAS OF INDIA (SCALE 1:5,000,000) (UPON WHICH JIM
ROTH OF CARLSBERG NOTED CONTRACT BOUNDARY CHANGES).

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2. CONFRONTED WITH A SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR DETAILS, RAMASWAMY

REVEALED THAT, CONTRARY TO AN EARLIER STATEMENT GIVEN TO THE MINATT (REF B), THE BOUNDARY LINES OF INDIA'S AREA VII HAD BEEN SMOOTHED OUT MODERATELY DURING FINAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOI AND THE NATOMAS/CARLSBERG GROUP. WHILE THE NET RESULT REFLECTS ONLY MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE BOUNDARY LINES AND TURNING POINTS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY THE GOI, IT IS NONETHELESS STILL A DIFFERENT VERSION THAN THAT WHICH HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY USED EITHER BY AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI OR DACCA. THIS VERSION, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE GOI-NATOMAS/CARISBERG CONTRACT, AS DESCRIBED BY LATITUDE-LONGITUDE COORDINATES, AND WILL BE USED BY THE GOI AND NATOMAS/CARLSBERG UNTIL A PRECISE MEDIAN LINE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA AND BANGLADESH AT A LATER DATE.

3. RAMASWAMY SAID (JUNE 4) THAT THE OFFSHORE BORDER QUESTION AROSE DURING PRIME MINISTER MUJIB RAHMAN'S RECENT VISIT TO INDIA AND THAT INDO/BANGLADESH "TECHNICAL LEVEL" OFFSHORE BORDER DISCUSSIONS ARE CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN "WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS". REPORTEDLY, IT IS HOPED THAT APPROPRIATE SURVEYS MAY BE CONDUCTED AND A MUTUALLY-ACCEPTABLE MEDIAN LINE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF FIELD OPERATIONS BY NATOMAS/CARLSBERG (ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1974). MEANWHILE, NATOMAS/CARLSBERG AND THE GOI HAVE JOINTLY AGREED TO TREAT AS "TENTATIVE ONLY" ALL COORDINATES (TURNING POINTS) CONNECTING LINES LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF BANGLADESH.

4. WE ARE PREPARING FOR EARLY POUCHING TO ALL ADDRESSEE POSTS AN AIRGRAM AND OVERLAY (TO BE USED WITH DACCA'S GEOGRAPHICAL MAP, SCALE 1:1,000,000) ILLUSTRATING THE GOI'S MODIFIED (ALBEIT STILL TENTATIVE) OFFSHORE AREA VII. AS CITED ABOVE JB THE COORDINATES USED ARE PRECISELY THOSE INCORPORATED IN THE CURRENT GOI-NATOMAS/CARLSBERG CONTRACT. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT THEY DO NOT COINCIDE WITH ROTH'S PENCILED SKETCH, AND DO NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO EITHER OVERLAP INTO BANFLADESH OR CONFLICT WITH THE WESTERN BORDER OF THE CURRENTLY DELINATED BANGLADESH CONTINENTAL SHELF OFFSHORE AREA. THE GOI'S INTENT HAS BEEN TO DESCRIBE A CONTRACT AREA (AREA VII) WITH AN EASTERN BORDER CONTIGUOUS TO, AND CONFORMABLE WITH, AN INTERNATIONAL BOUDARY (MEDIAN LINE) TO BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT (OR OTHER PRCISE DATA) DURING GOI -NATOMAS/CARLSBERG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEGOTIATIONS, THE PETROLEUM MINISTRY USED AS ITS "TEMPORARY MEDIAN LINE" THE HYPOTHETICAL EQUIDISTANT LINE PLOTTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ON THE GOI'S COPY OF THE NAUTICAL MAP, "KALINGAPATNAM TO GOYANGYI KYUN; SCALE 1:915,600 (UNCLASSIFIED: REF C) (COPY GIVEN TO THE PETROLEUM MINISTRY IN JULY 1973). THE LINE WILL BE MODIFIED, AND THE AREA VII EASTERN BOUNDARY AGAIN ADJUSTED, AS AND WHEN AN INDO/BANGLADESH MEDIAN LINE AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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